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single planar relationship, for engaging the interior wall of the cortical bone when said rod is inserted within the canal so as to center the rod relative to the wall.

Amend Claim 4 to read:

(Twice amended) An instrument as set forth in claims [2] 1 or 3, wherein said rod is provided with graduated markings along its length.

## <u>REMARKS</u>

The foregoing amendments correct inconsistencies introduced by the November 22, 1996 amendment and further distinguish applicant's invention from the prior art of record for the reasons presented on November 22.

Respectfully submitted,

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